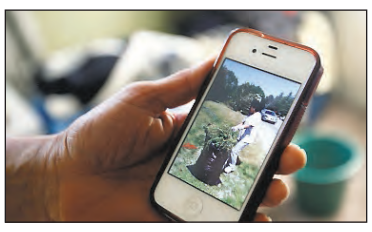
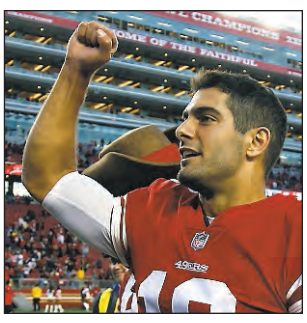
Local: New cellphone safety rules win praise. B1

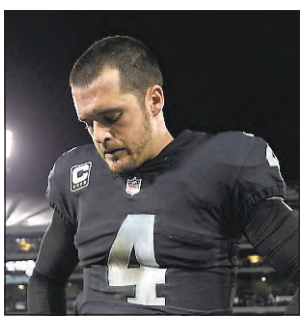


49ERS 25, TITANS 23

Garoppolo, Gould team up for late FG, victory

New QB goes to 3-0 on year. C1





COWBOYS 20, RAIDERS 17

Oakland fumbles comeback attempt

Carr drops ball at goal line. C1

Inside: Fire still rages in Santa Barbara County. A5

The newspaper of Silicon Valley

The Mercury News

BayArea NewsGroup 111 Volume 167, issue 182 MONDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2017 24/7 COVERAGE: MERCURYNEWS.COM » $1.50

MOURNED

Onetime civil-rights lawyer was the city's first Asian-American chief executive.

Elegy for Ed Lee

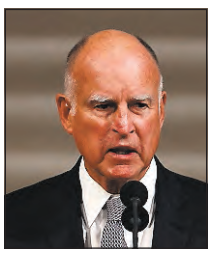
Outpouring: San Francisco mayor remembered as a model of 'what was righteous and good in a public servant,' whose 27 years of service were 'truly amazing and unique,' and was 'an awesome dude all around'

SCOTT STRAZZANTE — GETTY IMAGES; BELOW: WIRE AND KARL MONDON — STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Lieutenant Governor Gavin Newsom, Ed Lee's predecessor as San Francisco mayor, mourns Lee at City Hall memorial.

PAYING THEIR RESPECTS

Supervisor Aaron Peskin and former San Francisco Mayor Art Agnos



Gov. Jerry Brown

Sen. Kamala Harris

By Patrick May
pmay@bayareanewsgroup.com

In an emotional bookend to a weekend-long goodbye, fans of Ed Lee showed up Sunday by the thousands, filling San Francisco City Hall with an outpouring of warm affection for the town's first Asian-American mayor.

Since Lee's sudden death at 65 early Tuesday, the city he had led the past seven years has been in a state of disbelief. And Sunday's memorial drew a huge crowd of the mayor's admirers, from high-profile politicians and local celebrities to everyday residents who marveled at how the soft-spoken man had shepherded San Francisco out of the Great Recession and into its biggest boom time in recent history.

"Ed Lee epitomized what was righteous and good in a public servant," said former Supervi-

LEE » PAGE 6

Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi

Former Mayor Willie Brown

Sen. Dianne Feinstein

PROBE UNDER ATTACK

Trump: No intent to dismiss Mueller

Special counsel is safe, president says, repeating denial of Russia collusion

By Philip Rucker, Josh Dawsey and Sari Horwitz
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON » President Donald Trump on Sunday sought to douse speculation that he may fire Special Counsel Robert Mueller amid an intensifying campaign by Trump allies to attack the wide-ranging Russia investigation as improper and politically motivated.

Returning to the White House from Camp David, Trump was asked Sunday whether he intended to fire Mueller. "No, I'm not," he told journalists, insisting that there was "no collusion whatsoever" between his campaign and Russia.

The president's comments came a day after a lawyer representing Trump's transition team accused Mueller of wrongfully obtaining thousands of emails sent and received by Trump officials before the start of his administration — a legal and public relations maneuver seen as possibly laying the groundwork to oust the special counsel.

Trump criticized Mueller for gaining access to those emails, telling re-

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COMING MONDAY

Morning Report
The Mercury News | EAST BAY TIMES Friday, December 15, 2017

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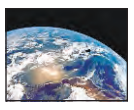

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COINUCOPIA OF SACRAMENTO

Startup offers 17 area ATMs for soaring bitcoin

Company seeks to democratize access to digital currency

By Seung Lee
slee@bayareanewsgroup.com

Few commodities are hotter right now than bitcoin, the world's most popular digital currency, which has rocketed up to around $18,000 from less than $1,000 since Jan. 1. And in the Bay Area, getting your hands on some is as easy as a trip to an ATM.

Coinucopia, a Sacramento-based startup, offers instant access to bitcoin at 17 automated teller machines in northern California, in locations as varied as the South Bay's Westfield Valley Fair mall, a Berkeley gas station and an Oakland liquor store. The company's aim? To democratize access to a currency that for years was accessible mostly only to digital insiders.

But as the bitcoin rush has gotten hotter, Coinucopia and other firms that offer digital currency ATMs are facing new competitors. Now, consumers can make swift transactions through

BITCOIN » PAGE 6

$18,689

Current value of bitcoin, though it can vary

NHAT V. MEYER — STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Brittney Still, of Oakland, uses the Coinucopia ATM inside the Chevron station on Bird Avenue in San Jose.

DEAN AT SANTA CLARA

Theologian: Mark season by living as Jesus did

The War on Christmas. Conjures up visions of Santa rolling down the street in an Abrams tank, doesn't it? Rudolph in night vision goggles, his shiny nose retrofitted to a Red Dot Riflescope. Drones. Cyber attacks. Special Ops.

Gary Peterson
Columnist

No need to make a mad dash to your fallout shelter. This is a culture war, waged by those to whom it matters how and where and why others celebrate the final few weeks of the calendar year. You know, the folks who make a living turning Starbucks holiday cups into a bombastic morality play?

Good news! The war has taken a turn for the sensible. Father Kevin O'Brien, dean of the Jesuit School of Theology at Santa Clara University, recently stood before the cameras

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